GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4379
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
POLLUTION FROM COAL
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board is seized of the job of easing environmental problems caused by the use of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any mechanism to minimise the pollution from coal has been developed or suggested by his Ministry to coal industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the directions issued to coal industry in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The environmental problems posed by coal mining, processing and coal combustion include land degradation, water and air pollution.

(c) & (d): The steps taken by the Government to minimise pollution from use of coal include the following:-

i) Environmental clearance for coal mining projects has been made statutory under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

ii) Environmental guidelines and standards have been notified for coal mining and thermal power plants.

iii) The coal based power plants located at a distance of 1000 k.m. or more from pithead as well those located in critically polluted areas and ecologically sensitive areas are required to use beneficiated coal with ash content not exceeding 34 percent with effect from June, 2001.

iv) The thermal power plants are required to provide stack of specified height to minimise the impact of air pollution at the ground level.

v) Utilisation of fly ash to the maximum extent possible.